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VII.—*On an apparently undescribed Weasel from Yarkand.*—*By* W. T. Blanford, F. R. S., &c.

Amongst the collections brought by Dr. Stoliczka from Eastern Turkestan was the skin of a weasel which had been kept in confinement. Judging from the skin alone, the animal appeared chiefly to differ from the common European weasel in colour, and it was difficult to say how far this difference was due to the circumstances under which the individual had been kept. Although I strongly suspected that it was a distinct species, still I thought it safer not to form conclusions from a single skin, and in the list of species J. A. S. B., 1875, Vol. XLIV, Pt. 2, p. 106, I noted the specimen as *Mustela vulgaris ?* var.

A year later Dr. Scully brought from Turkestan another skin of the same weasel, but the second specimen had belonged to a male wild individual. This skin was also entrusted to me together with some other interesting specimens for description, and I regret that other work has prevented my noticing it sooner. On comparing this second specimen more carefully with *M. vulgaris*, I found that it differed not only in colour, but in size, being a much larger animal. The length measured on the fresh carcase by Dr. Scully, shews that the Yarkand weasel is nearly as large as an ermine, whilst the tail, the vertebræ of which are for the most part preserved, appears to be proportionally longer than in the common weasel. The weight and some other details are also carefully recorded on the label. The name in Eastern Turkestan is *Agha makan.*

The following is a description :—

MUSTELA STOLICZKANA, sp. nov.

Mustela ad M. vulgarem proxime accedens sed valde major, superne fusco-arenaria, subtus albida, caudâ longiore, quartem partem totius longitudinis subæquante, cum dorso concolore ; labris ambobus genisque inferioribus albis, maculâ utrinque post angulam oris fulvâ, alterâque ante oculum utrumque albâ, palmis plantisque confertim pilis indutis. Long. tota cum caudâ 12·2, *caudæ, pilis inclusis,* 3, *cranii* 1·8, *pedis posterioris a calcaneo* 1·4 *poll. Angl.*

HAB. Yarkand (Stoliczka, Scully).

Colour pale sandy brown above, the hairs rather paler and whitish at the base, white below. Fur short, dense and soft. Tail throughout the same colour as the back. There is a small white spot close to the anterior angle of each eye, and a rather larger sandy brown spot a little behind the gape in the lower part of the cheeks which are white to within a short distance below the eye. Upper lip white. Upper whiskers dark brown towards the base, and of about the same length as the head. Fore feet white mixed with pale brown above, hind feet only whitish at the edges; soles of all the feet thickly clad, only the toe pads being naked, and even they are almost concealed by the long hair. Tail nearly cylindrical, about one-third the length of the head and body.

The whole length, measured by Dr. Scully when the animal was fresh, and noted on the ticket, was 12·2 inches, the tail, of which the vertebræ are preserved, now measures 3 inches including the hair at the end, or 2·3 without it. The hind foot and tarsus are 1·4 inches long without the claws. Fur on the back about 0·3 in. long. The weight marked by Dr. Scully on the label was 5·2 oz.*

The skull is slightly imperfect behind, the occipital plane having been cut away, but as the occipital crest remains, the total length can be measured with close approximation. The cranium shews the specimen to have been just adult, the dentition being perfect, although the sagittal crest is only rudimentary. The following are the dimensions:

	in.	metre.
Length of skull (approximate) from occipital plane to alveolar margin,	1·75	·0425
Breadth of brain case across parietal region,	0·83	·021
Ditto across zygomatic arches,	0·98	·024
Ditto behind post-orbital processes,	0·4	·01
Length of suture between nasal bones,	0·28	·077

* The weight of the common weasel, according to Pallas, Zoog. Ros. As. I. p. 98, is only 2 ounces and a drachm in the largest individuals, 1½ oz. in smaller animals, chiefly females.

Length of bony palate from anterior alveolar margin to the opening of the posterior nares,	0·75	·0185
Length of carnassial tooth along outer edge,	0·2	·005
Breadth of tubercular (hinder) molar,	0·15	·0938
Breadth of bony palate between hinder molars,	0·3	·0075
Length of lower jaw from condyle to symphysis,	1·	·025
Height of ditto from the coronoid process,	0·5	·0125

VIII.—*Description of some new and little known Asiatic Shrews in the Indian Museum, Calcutta.*—*By* John Anderson, M. D., *Superintendent.*

In preparing a Catalogue of the Mammals in the Indian Museum, it has been necessary to examine in detail the now somewhat extensive collection of shrews which has been formed since the Asiatic Society's collections were practically transferred to the Government of India, nearly eleven years ago.

To show the progress which has been made since 1866, in a department which has never attracted many cultivators, it may suffice to state that Blyth's Catalogue of Mammals which was published in 1863 contained only 15 species of Asiatic Shrews. These were represented in the Asiatic Society's Museum, in 1865, by 22 mounted and 18 alcoholic specimens, and by 5 skulls and 2 skeletons.

At present, there are 38 species of these small Mammals in the Indian Museum, illustrated by nearly 130 alcoholic specimens, 29 dried skins, 71 skulls and 5 skeletons.

The most important additions to the Indian Museum in this section of the vertebrates, since the publication of Blyth's Catalogue, have been *Anurosorex*, and the water-shrew of the Himalayas, the so-called *Crossopus himalaicus*.

The discovery of the former, remarkable, generic type in Assam was made by Mr. S. E. Peal of Sibságar, in 1871, about one year after it had been described by M. A. Milne-Edwards from a specimen obtained in Sé-tchouan and Tibet by the distinguished traveller, M. l'Abbé David.

The first specimen of the Himalayan water-shrew in the Indian Museum was obtained by the late Dr. Jerdon in Sikkim, and the second example was procured by myself to the east of Bhamô, in the Kakhyen hills which form the natural western boundary of the Chinese Province of Yunnan. It has been again obtained by Mr. Mandelli of Dárjíling who has done so much to extend our knowledge regarding the fauna of Sikkim. No information that